Trade between Sri Lanka and India

2011. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:
SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to widen the scope of trade and commerce between India and Sri Lanka, both the countries have signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement;

(b) if so, the details of the new areas identified;

(c) to what extent this new pact has incorporated the new segments of the industry including services and investments besides the other sectors of economic cooperation; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) There is a proposal to enter into a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and Sri Lanka.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the meeting between the Prime Minister of India and Sri Lanka during 2002, a Joint Study Group (JSG) was set up. This Group, in its report submitted to the two Prime Ministers on 20th October, 2003 in New Delhi, has recommended that CEPA could address issues such as reducing items under the Negative List, adopting trade facilitation measures like harmonized customs procedures, conclusion of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs). Additionally, the CEPA would include trade in services, investment and economic cooperation.

(d) The details of the CEPA are yet to be negotiated by both countries.

Dilution of intellectual property of drug companies

2012. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest agreement reached at Geneva on contentious provisions to dilute intellectual property of drug companies to meet public